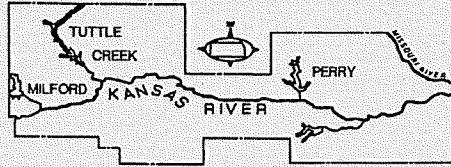


The Kansas River



Water Assurance District No. 1

212 SW 7th Street - Topeka, Kansas 66603-3717

October 8, 2021

The Kansas Water Office
900 SW Jackson, Ste 404
Topeka, Kansas 66611-1249

Email: kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov

Re: Draft Kansas Water Plan Comments by the Kansas River Water Assurance District No.1.

Dear Officers and Staff of the Kansas Water Office:

The officers and members of the Kansas River Water Assurance District No. 1 (the "District") have reviewed the Draft Kansas Water Plan approved by the Kansas Water Authority on August 17, 2021 and wishes to provide comment to your office.

The District is comprised of approximately 15 first class municipalities, water districts, industries and other utilities using water in the Kansas River basin to supply consumers and citizens with water and other services throughout the Northeastern portion of the state. In the 34 years since its inception, the District has worked closely with the Kansas Water Office, the Corps of Engineers and other stakeholders in assuring the supply of quality water for its members and the future needs of the State. The District's substantial interest in Milford, Perry and Tuttle Creek Reservoirs means that it must carefully consider the impact of proposed plans for these areas, as well as the State at large.

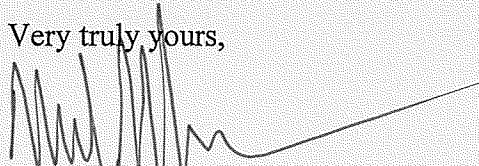
The District supports efforts by KWO to address sedimentation reduction in Kansas reservoirs. Tuttle Creek itself shows how these controls are vital, as significant storage capacity has been lost at this location due to sediment. The District believes that prevention through streambank stabilization and agricultural best practices present the best method to address this growing problem, and the quality issues that it creates. Prevention at the source is also less costly than attempted remediation after the sediment is deposited in the reservoir system.

The District also supports the need to reallocate portions of the multi-purpose pools in Milford and Perry to water quality storage. Tuttle Creek already has a portion dedicated to this purpose, and the District considers this to be beneficial to its members, and the public at large. While the District itself exists largely to maintain levels for its members in times of drought, maintenance of water quality storage to support streamflow ensures quality for all users of water in the basin.

The Draft Plan also discusses the possibility of the purchase of additional storage by KWO, in part to take advantage of low interest rates currently available for issuance of bonds. This priority goal is important to the District as well, but must be backed by funding support through the Kansas Legislature itself. Prior to purchase of storage or issuance of bonds, KWO should take steps to insure long-term, sustainable funding from the State, considering past actions that have limited appropriations to the KWO and other water projects. The District stands ready to assist in petitioning the Legislature for this funding.

Quality water supplies must be a priority for all citizens of the State, especially considering the coming challenges faced by industry and agriculture throughout the State. The District appreciates the dedication of KWO to these proposed changes, and looks forward to the work ahead to meet the goals outlined.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mike Lawless', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Lawless
President

Kansas River Water Assurance District No. 1